CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	VEB Plasta Kunstharz-und Pressmassefabrik, Erkner	DATE DISTR.	1 December 1954
		NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	

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This is UNEVALUATED

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Following are some details on VEB Plasta Kunstharz-und Pressmassefabrik, Erkner, for the quarter, June-August, 1954:

1. Arrival of Raw Materials.

Material	Approx. Quantity	Origin
Xylenol	120 tankers	Erkner
"	100 tons	"
"	200 "	Buna
"	500 "	Leuna
Phenol	10 tankers	"
"	50 tons	Buna
Cresol	25 tankers	Leuna
"	150 tons	"
"	200 tons	Erkner
Urea	150 "	Buna
"	80 "	-
"	100 "	Apolda
Formaline	200 tankers	Leuna
"	100 "	-
"	300 tons	-
Barite	600 "	-
"	100 "	People's Democracies
"	250 "	" "
Sawdust	50 "	-
"	100 "	
Asbestos	200 "	U.S.S.R.
Hexamethylentetramin	70 "	-

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STATE		ARMY		NAVY		AIR		FBI		AEC					
	X		X		X		X								

(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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2. **Production Deliveries.**

Product	Approx. Quantity	Destination
Phenol plastics	900 tons	East Germany
" "	250 "	"
Aminoplastics	100 "	"
"	100 "	Dresden
"	100 "	Berlin and vicinity
Phenol resins	100 "	East Germany
" "	200 "	-
Glue resins	70 "	Bitterfeld, Espenhain, Hennigsdorf
Xylenol resin	100 "	Espenhain
Molded plastic (Pressmassen) (colored)	300 "	Sonneberg, Koeppelsdorf, Hennigsdorf
Resin for grinding wheels (Schleifscheibenharz)	20 "	Poland

3. Research and Development

Owing to the lack of better resins, even the below standard xylenol resins are used. New recipes are not yet available.

In all Pressmasse recipes, the addition of "Hexa" has been considerably reduced.

The physical-technical values have remained as before. About 40 tons of "Hexa" are saved per month.

Dimethylol urea and monomethylol urea will be used as new materials for improving the quality of urea resins. They are being produced under laboratory conditions for the time being according to the following formulae:

a) $CO\begin{matrix}\nearrow NH\ CH_2\ (OH)\\ \searrow NH_2\end{matrix}$

Cooled by ice, a 37.4% formalin solution is made to drip into a solution of urea and Ba $(OH)_2$, the components being used in their molecular proportions. As soon as the HCHO is used up, CO_2 is introduced in order to neutralize Ba $(OH)_2$. Ba CO_3 is filtered away. The substance is left to evaporate in the vacuum e + si. The residue is monomethylol urea. The product is easily solvable in H_2O. Recrystallization is done in alcohol. Prisms Fp 111°C are easily soluble in CH_3OH but not soluble in ether. Under treatment of acids, even diluted acids, including acetic acid, amorphous products are formed.

b) $CO\begin{matrix}\nearrow NH\ CH_2(OH)\\ \searrow NH\ CH_2(OH)\end{matrix}$

One molecule of urea is added to a 37.4% HCHO solution (2 molecules) at a temperature of 25°C. in the presence of $Ba(OH)_2$. When the HCHO smell has disappeared, CO_2 is introduced and then filtered away. The filtered substance leaves behind dimethylol.

4. Personnel and Construction

No change.

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